

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
30 November 2000 (30.11.2000)(10) International Publication Number
WO 00/72496 A1(51) International Patent Classification⁷: H04L 1/00 (74) Agent: HAINES, Miles, John; D Young & Co, 21 New Fetter Lane, London EC3A 1DA (GB).

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB00/01889

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date: 17 May 2000 (17.05.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

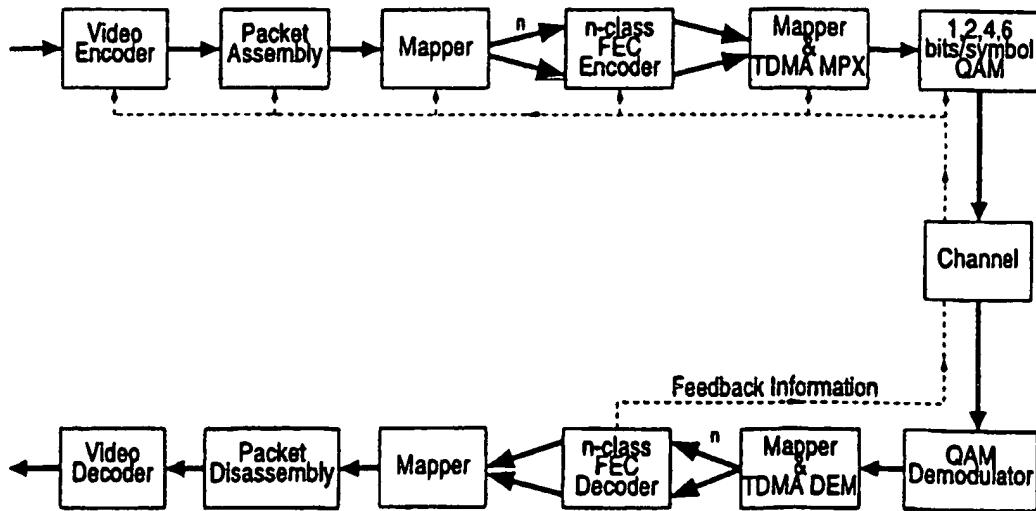
(26) Publication Language: English

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).(30) Priority Data:
9911777.2 20 May 1999 (20.05.1999) GB(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON [GB/GB]; Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ (GB).**Published:**

— With international search report.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: ADAPTIVE JOINT-DETECTION CDMA VIDEO TRANSCEIVER



WO 00/72496 A1

(57) Abstract: In a near-instantaneously adaptive joint-detection CDMA-based transceiver used for wireless video telephony a method for transmission of a multimedia signal is described, the method comprising: providing a transmitter operable to transmit in a plurality of modulation modes varying in bit rate and error resilience between a highest bit rate, lowest error resilience mode and a lowest bit rate, highest error resilience mode; obtaining a channel quality measure for current transmission; and switching to a more or less error resilient modulation mode each time the channel quality measure respectively degrades or improves by a defined amount, whereby multimedia signal quality varies smoothly with varying channel quality of the transmission medium.

ADAPTIVE JOINT-DETECTION COMA VIDEO TRANSCEIVER

1 Background of the Invention

5 The invention relates to burst-by-burst adaptive joint-detection Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA)
6 based transmission of multimedia signals, such as interactive video or audio, speech etc.
7 In contrast to the *burst-by-burst reconfigurable CDMA* multimedia transceivers described in this doc-
8 ument, the term *statically reconfigurable* found in this context in the literature refers to multimedia
9 transceivers that cannot be near-instantaneously reconfigured. More explicitly, the previously proposed
10 *statically reconfigurable* video transceivers were reconfigured on a long-term basis under the base sta-
11 tion's control, invoking for example in the central cell region - where benign channel conditions prevail
12 - a less robust, but high-throughput modulation mode, such as 4 bit/symbol Quadrature Amplitude Mod-
13 ulation (16QAM), which was capable of transmitting a quadruple number of bits and hence ensured a
14 better video quality. By contrast, a robust, but low-throughput modulation mode, such as 1 bit/symbol
15 Binary Phase Shift Keying (BPSK) can be employed near the edge of the propagation cell, where hostile
16 propagation conditions prevail. This prevented a premature hand-over at the cost of a reduced video
17 quality.

18 The philosophy of the fixed, but programmable-rate proprietary video codecs and statically reconfigurable
19 multi-mode video transceivers presented by Streit *et al.* for example in References [1] was that irrespec-
20 tive of the video motion activity experienced, the specially designed video codecs generated a constant
21 number of bits per video frame. For example, for videophony over the second-generation Global System
22 of Mobile Communications known as the GSM system at 13 kbps and assuming a video scanning rate of
23 10 frames/s, 1300 bits per video frame have to be generated. Specifically, two families of video codecs
24 were designed, one refraining from using error-sensitive run-length coding techniques and exhibiting the
25 highest possible error resilience and another, aiming for the highest possible compression ratio. This
26 fixed-rate approach had the advantage of requiring no adaptive feedback controlled bitrate fluctuation
27 smoothing buffering and hence exhibited no objectionable video latency or delay. Furthermore, these
28 video codecs were amenable to video telephony over fixed-rate second-generation mobile radio systems,
29 such as the GSM.

30 The fixed bitrate of the above proprietary video codecs is in contrast to existing standard video codecs,

51 such as the Motion Pictures Expert Group codecs known as MPEG1 and MPEG2 or the ITU's H.263
52 codec, where the time-variant video motion activity and the variable-length coding techniques employed
53 result in a time-variant bitrate fluctuation and a near-constant perceptual video quality. This time-variant
54 bitrate fluctuation can be mitigated by employing adaptive feed-back controlled buffering, which po-
55 tentially increases the latency or delay of the codec and hence it is often objectionable for example in
56 interactive videophony. The schemes presented by Streit *et al.* in References [1] result in slightly variable
57 video quality at a constant bitrate, while refraining from employing buffering, which again, would result
58 in latency in interactive videophony. A range of techniques, which can be invoked, in order to render the
59 family of variable-length coded, highly bandwidth-efficient, but potentially error-sensitive class of stan-
60 dard video codecs, such as the H.263 arrangement, amenable to error-resilient, low-latency interactive
61 wireless multimode videophony was summarised in [2]. The adaptive video rate control and packetisa-
62 tion algorithm of [2] generates the required number of bits for the burst-by-burst adaptive transceiver,
63 depending the on the capacity of the current packet, as determined by the current modem mode. Fur-
64 ther error-resilient H.263-based schemes were contrived for example by Fürber, Steinbach and Girod
65 at Erlangen University [3], while Sadka, Eryurtlu and Kondoz [4] from Surrey University proposed a
66 range of improvements to the H.263 scheme. Following the above portrayal of the prior art in both video
67 compression and statically reconfigurable narroband modulation, let us now consider the philosophy of
68 wideband burst-by-burst adaptive quadrature amplitude modulation (AQAM) in more depth.
69 In burst-by-burst adaptive modulation a higher-order modulation scheme is invoked, when the channel
70 is favourable, in order to increase the system's bits per symbol capacity and conversely, a more robust
71 lower order modulation scheme is employed, when the channel exhibits inferior channel quality, in order
72 to improve the mean Bit Error Ratio (BER) performance. A practical scenario, where adaptive modula-
73 tion can be applied is, when a reliable, low-delay feedback path is created between the transmitter and
74 receiver, for example by superimposing the estimated channel quality perceived by the receiver on the
75 reverse-direction messages of a duplex interactive channel. The transmitter then adjusts its modem mode
76 according to this perceived channel quality.
77 Recent developments in adaptive modulation over a narrow-band channel environment have been pi-
78 oneered by Webb and Steele [5], where the modulation adaptation was utilized in a Digital European
79 Cordless Telephone - like (DECT) system. The concept of variable rate adaptive modulation was also
80 advanced by Sampei *et al* [6], showing promising advantages, when compared to fixed modulation in
81 terms of spectral efficiency, BER performance and robustness against channel delay spread. In another
82 paper, the numerical upper bound performance of adaptive modulation in a slow Rayleigh flat-fading
83 channel was evaluated by Torrance *et al*[7] and subsequently, the optimization of the switching threshold

64 levels using Powell minimization was used in order to achieve a targeted performance [8, 9]. In addition,
65 adaptive modulation was also studied in conjunction with channel coding and power control techniques
66 by Matsuoka *et al* [6] as well as Goldsmith *et al.*[10].
67 In the narrow-band channel environment, the quality of the channel was determined by the short term
68 Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR) of the received burst, which was then used as a criterion in order to choose
69 the appropriate modulation mode for the transmitter, based on a list of switching threshold levels, I_n [5, 9].
70 However, in a wideband environment, this criterion is not an accurate measure for judging the quality of
71 the channel, where the existence of multi-path components produces not only power attenuation of the
72 transmission burst, but also intersymbol interference. Subsequently, a new criterion has to be defined to
73 estimate the wideband channel quality in order to choose the appropriate modulation scheme.

74 2 Summary of the Invention

75 Particular and preferred aspects of the invention are set out in the accompanying independent and depen-
76 dent claims. Features of the dependent claims may be combined with those of the independent claims as
77 appropriate and used in combinations other than those explicitly set out in the claims.
78 The performance benefits of burst-by-burst adaptive modulation assisted CDMA are described, employ-
79 ing a higher-order modulation mode in transmission bursts, when the instantaneous channel quality is
80 favourable, ie when the received signal is unimpaired by co-channel interferers. This procedure is em-
81 ployed, in order to increase the system's bits per symbol (BPS) capacity and conversely, invoking a more
82 robust, lower order modulation mode, when the channel exhibits inferior channel quality. Therefore the
83 associated bit rate will be time-variant.
84 It is shown that due to the described adaptive modem mode switching regime a seamless multimedia
85 source-signal representation quality - such as video or audio quality - versus channel quality relation-
86 ship can be established, resulting in a near-unimpaired multimedia source-signal quality right across
87 the operating channel Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR) range. The main advantage of the described tech-
88 nique is that irrespective of the prevailing channel conditions, the transceiver achieves always the best
89 possible source-signal representation quality - such as video or audio quality - by automatically adjust-
90 ing the achievable bitrate and the associated multimedia source-signal representation quality in order to
91 match the channel quality experienced. This can achieved on a near-instantaneous basis under given
92 propagation conditions in order to cater for the effects of path-loss, fast-fading, slow-fading, dispersion,
93 co-channel interference, etc. Furthermore, when a mobile is roaming in a hostile out-doors - or even
94 hilly terrain - propagation environment, typically low-order, low-rate modem modes are invoked, while

95 in benign indoor environments predominantly the high-rate, high source-signal representation quality
96 modes are employed.

97 3 Brief Description of the Drawings

98 For a better understanding of the invention and to show how the same may be carried into effect reference
99 is now made by way of example to the accompanying drawings, in which:

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139 3.1 State-of-the-art

140 Burst-by-burst adaptive quadrature amplitude modulation (AQAM) was contrived by Steele and Webb [5],
141 in order for the transceiver to cope with the time-variant channel quality of narrowband fading channels.
142 Further related research was conducted at the University of Osaka by Sampei and his colleagues, investi-
143 gating variable coding rate concatenated coded schemes [6], at the University of Stanford by Goldsmith
144 and her team, studying the effects of variable-rate, variable-power arrangements [10] and at Southamp-
145 ton University in the UK, investigating a variety of practical aspects of AQAM [12, 13]. The channel's
146 quality is estimated on a burst-by-burst basis and the most appropriate modulation mode is selected in or-
147 der to maintain the required target bit error rate (BER) performance, whilst maximizing the system's Bit
148 Per Symbol (BPS) throughput. Using this reconfiguration regime the distribution of channel errors be-
149 comes typically less bursty, than in conjunction with non-adaptive modems, which potentially increases
150 the channel coding gains. Furthermore, the soft-decision channel codec metrics can be also invoked in
151 estimating the instantaneous channel quality, irrespective of the type of channel impairments.
152 A range of coded AQAM schemes were analysed by Matsuoka *et al* [6], Lau *et al* [14] and Gold-
153 smith *et al* [10]. For data transmission systems, which do not necessarily require a low transmission
154 delay, variable-throughput adaptive schemes can be devised, which operate efficiently in conjunction
155 with powerful error correction codecs, such as long block length turbo codes. However, the acceptable
156 turbo interleaving delay is rather low in the context of low-delay interactive speech. Video communica-
157 tions systems typically require a higher bitrate than speech systems and hence they can afford a higher
158 interleaving delay.
159 The above principles - which were typically investigated in the context of narrowband modems - were
160 further advanced in conjunction with wideband modems, employing powerful block turbo coded wide-
161 band Decision Feedback Equaliser (DFE) assisted AQAM transceivers [15]. A neural-network Radial
162 Basis Function (RBF) DFE based AQAM modem design was proposed in [16], where the RBF DFE
163 provided the channel quality estimates for the modem mode switching regime. This modem was capa-
164 ble of removing the residual BER of conventional DFEs, when linearly non-separable received phasor
165 constellations were encountered.
166 The above burst-by-burst adaptive principles can also be extended to Adaptive Orthogonal Frequency
167 Division Multiplexing (AOFDM) schemes [17]. The associated AQAM principles were invoked in the
168 context of parallel AO-FDM modems also by Czylwik *et al* [18], Fischer [19] and Chow *et al* [20].
169 Our main contribution is that upon invoking the technique advocated - irrespective of the channel con-
170 ditions experienced - the transceiver achieves always the best possible video quality by automatically

171 adjusting the achievable bitrate and the associated video quality in order to match the channel quality ex-
172 perienced. This is achieved on a near-instantaneous basis under given propagation conditions in order to
173 cater for the effects of path-loss, fast-fading, slow-fading, dispersion, co-channel interference, etc. Fur-
174 thermore, when the mobile is roaming in a hostile outdoor propagation environment, typically low-order.
175 low-rate modem modes are invoked, while in benign indoor environments predominantly the high-rate,
176 high source-signal representation quality modes are employed.

177 3.2 ACDMA Signalling Scenarios

178 ACDMA transmission parameter adaptation is an action of the transmitter in response to time-varying
179 channel conditions. It is only suitable for duplex communication between two stations, since the trans-
180 mission parameter adaptation relies on some form of channel estimation and signalling. In order to
181 efficiently react to the changes in channel quality, the following steps have to be taken:

182 • *Channel quality estimation:* In order to appropriately select the transmission parameters to be
183 employed for the next transmission, a reliable prediction of the channel quality during the next
184 active transmit timeslot is necessary.

185 • *Choice of the appropriate parameters for the next transmission:* Based on the prediction of the
186 expected channel conditions during the next timeslot, the transmitter has to select the appropriate
187 modulation schemes for the subcarriers.

188 • *Signalling or blind detection of the employed parameters:* The receiver has to be informed, as
189 to which set of demodulator parameters to employ for the received packet. This information can
190 either be conveyed within the packet, at the cost of loss of useful data bandwidth, or the receiver
191 can attempt to estimate the parameters employed at the transmitter by means of blind detection
192 mechanisms.

193 Depending on the channel characteristics, these operations can be performed at either of the duplex
194 stations, as shown in Figures 1(a), 1(b) and 1(c). If the channel is reciprocal, then the channel quality
195 estimation for each link can be extracted from the reverse link, and we refer to this regime as open-
196 loop adaptation. In this case, the transmitter needs to communicate the transmission parameter set to
197 the receiver (Figure 1(a)), or the receiver can attempt blind detection of the transmission parameters
198 employed (Figure 1(c)).

199 If the channel is not reciprocal, then the channel quality estimation has to be performed at the receiver
200 of the link. In this case, the channel quality measure or the set of requested transmission parameters is

201 communicated to the transmitter in the reverse link (Figure 1(b)). This mode is referred to as closed-loop
202 adaptation.

203 3.3 Video Transceiver

204 The schematic of the whole system is depicted in Figure 2. The multimedia source signal generated by
205 the video encoder of Figure 2 is assembled into transmission packets constituting a CDMA transmission
206 burst and the bits may be additionally mapped by the Mapper of Figure 2 to n number of different
207 Forward Error Correction (FEC) protection classes. These bits are then conveyed to the optional
208 Time Division Multiplex (TDMA)/ Time Division Duplex (TDD) scheme of Figure 2, before they are
209 assigned to the AQAM/ACDMA modem seen in Figure 2.

210 Again, the philosophy of the proposed burst-by-burst adaptive joint detection CDMA scheme is that the
211 signal to interference plus noise ratio (SINR) at the output of the multi-user receiver is used in order to
212 estimate the instantaneous channel quality. In one of its possible embodiments the receiver then decides
213 on the transmitter's mode to be used during the next transmission burst on the basis of the received signal
214 quality and the receiver's perception of the channel quality is signalled to the remote transmitter, in order
215 to allow it to satisfy the receiver's integrity requirement.

216 In this study we transmitted 176x144 pixel Quarter Common Intermediate Format (QCIF) and 128x96
217 pixel Sub-QCIF (SQCIF) video sequences at 10 frames/s using a reconfigurable Time Division Multiple
218 Access / Code Division Multiple Access (TDMA / CDMA) transceiver, which can be configured as a 1,
219 2 or 4 bit/symbol scheme shown in Figure 2. The H.263 video codec exhibits an impressive compression
220 ratio, although this is achieved at the cost of a high vulnerability to transmission errors, since a run-length
221 coded stream is rendered undecodable by a single bit error. In order to mitigate this problem, when the
222 channel codec protecting the video stream is overwhelmed by the transmission errors, we refrain from
223 decoding the corrupted video packet in order to prevent error propagation through the reconstructed video
224 frame buffer [2]. We found that it was more beneficial in video quality terms, if these corrupted video
225 packets were dropped and the reconstructed frame buffer was not updated, until the next video packet
226 replenishing the specific video frame area was received. The associated video performance degradation
227 was found perceptually unobjectionable for packet dropping- or transmission frame error rates (FER)
228 below about 5%. These packet dropping events were signalled to the remote decoder by superimposing
229 a strongly protected one-bit packet acknowledgement flag on the reverse-direction packet, as outlined
230 in [2]. Bose-Chaudhuri-Hocquenghem (BCH) and turbo error correction codes were used and again,
231 the CDMA transceiver was capable of transmitting 1, 2 and 4 bits per symbol, where each symbol was
232 spread using a low spreading factor (SF) of 16, as seen in Table 1.

Parameter	
Multiple access	TDMA/CDMA
Channel type	COST 207 Bad Urban
Number of paths in channel	7
Normalised Doppler frequency	3.7×10^{-5}
CDMA spreading factor	16
Spreading sequence	Random
Frame duration	4.615 ms
Burst duration	577 μ s
Joint detection CDMA receiver	Whitening matched filter (WMF) or Minimum mean square error block decision feedback equalizer (MMSE-BDFE)
No. of Slots/Frame	8
TDMA frame length	4.615ms
TDMA slot length	577 μ s
TDMA slots/Video packet	3
Chip Periods/TDMA slot	1250
Data Symbols/TDMA slot	68
User Data Symbol Rate (kBd)	14.7
System Data Symbol Rate (kBd)	117.9

Table 1: Generic system parameters using the Frames spread speech/data mode 2 proposal [11]

233 The associated parameters will be addressed in more depth during our further discourse. Employing
 234 a low spreading factor of 16 allowed us to improve the system's multi-user performance with the aid
 235 of joint-detection techniques [21]. We note furthermore that the implementation of the joint detection
 236 receivers is independent of the number of bits per symbol associated with the modulation mode used,
 237 since the receiver simply inverts the associated system matrix and invokes a decision concerning the
 238 received symbol, irrespective of how many bits per symbol were used. Therefore, joint detection
 239 receivers are amenable to amalgamation with the above 1, 2 and 4 bit/symbol modem, since they
 240 do not have to be reconfigured each time the modulation mode is switched.
 241 In this performance study we used the Pan-European FRAMES proposal [11] as the basis for our CDMA
 242 system. The associated transmission frame structure is shown in Figure 3, while a range of generic system

Features	BCH coding	Turbo coding
Modulation	4QAM	
Transmission bitrate (kbit/s)	29.5	
Video-rate (kbit/s)	13.7	11.1
Video framerate (Hz)	10	

Table 2: FEC-protected and unprotected BCH and Turbo coded bitrates for the 4QAM transceiver mode

243 parameters are summarised in Table 1. In our performance studies we used the COST207 seven-path bad
 244 urban (BU) channel model, whose impulse response is portrayed in Figure 4.
 245 Our initial experiments compared the performance of a whitening matched filter (WMF) for single user
 246 detection and the Minimum mean square error block decision feedback equalizer (MMSE-BDFE) for
 247 joint multi-user detection. These simulations were performed using 4-level Quadrature Amplitude Mod-
 248 ulation (4QAM), transmitting both binary BCH and turbo coded video packets. The associated bitrates
 249 are summarised in Table 2.
 250 The transmission bitrate of the 4QAM modem mode was 29.5Kbps, which was reduced due to the ap-
 251 proximately half-rate BCH or turbo coding, plus the associated video packet acknowledgement feedback
 252 flag error control and video packetisation overhead to produce effective video bitrates of 13.7Kbps and
 253 11.1Kbps, respectively. A more detailed discussion on the video packet acknowledgement feedback
 254 error control and video packetisation overhead will be provided in Section 3.4 with reference to the
 255 convolutionally coded multi-mode investigations.
 256 Figure 5 portrays the bit error ratio (BER) performance of the BCH coded video transceiver using both
 257 matched filtering and joint detection for 2–8 users. The bit error ratio is shown to increase, as the number
 258 of users increases, even upon employing the MMSE-BDFE multi-user detector (MUD). However, while
 259 the matched filtering receiver exhibits an unacceptably high BER for supporting perceptually unimpaired
 260 video communications, the MUD exhibits a far superior BER performance.
 261 When the BCH codec was replaced by the turbo-codec, the bit error ratio performance of both matched
 262 filtering and the MUD receiver improved, as shown in Figure 6. However, as expected, matched filtering
 263 was still outperformed by the joint detection scheme for the same number of users. Furthermore, the
 264 matched filtering performance degraded rapidly for more than two users.
 265 Figure 7 shows the video packet loss ratio (PLR) for the turbo coded video stream using matched filtering
 266 and joint detection for 2–8 users. The figure clearly shows that the matched filter was only capable of
 267 meeting the target packet loss ratio of 5% for upto four users, when the channel SNR was in excess of
 268 11dB. However, the joint detection algorithm guaranteed the required video packet loss ratio performance

Features	Multi-rate System		
Mode	BPSK	4QAM	16QAM
Bits/Symbol	1	2	4
FEC	Convolutional Coding		
Transmitted bits/packet	204	408	816
Total bitrate (kbit/s)	14.7	29.5	58.9
FEC-coded bits/packet	102	204	408
Assigned to FEC-coding (kbit/s)	7.4	14.7	29.5
Error detection per packet	16 bit CRC		
Feedback bits / packet	9		
Video packet size	77	179	383
Packet header bits	8	9	10
Video bits/packet	69	170	373
Unprotected video-rate (kbit/s)	5.0	12.3	26.9
Video framerate (Hz)	10		

Table 3: Operational-mode specific transceiver parameters for the proposed multi-mode system

269 for 2–8 users in the entire range of channel SNRs shown. Furthermore, the 2-user matched-filtered PLR
 270 performance was close to the 8-user MUD PLR.

271 3.4 Multi-mode Video System Performance

272 Having shown that joint detection can substantially improve our system's performance, we investigated
 273 the performance of a multi-mode convolutionally coded video system employing joint detection, while
 274 supporting two users. The associated convolutional codec parameters are summarised in Table 3.
 275 Below we now detail the video packetisation method employed. The reader is reminded that the number
 276 of symbols per TDMA frame was 68 according to Table 1. In the 4QAM mode this would give 136 bits
 277 per TDMA frame. However, if we transmitted one video packet per TDMA frame, then the packetisation
 278 overhead would absorb a large percentage of the available bitrate. Hence we assembled larger video
 279 packets, thereby reducing the packetisation overhead and arranged for transmitting the contents of a
 280 video packet over three consecutive TDMA frames, as indicated in Table 1. Therefore each protected
 281 video packet consists of $68 \times 3 = 204$ modulation symbols, yielding a transmission bitrate of between
 282 14.7 and 38.9 Kbps for BPSK and 16QAM, respectively. However, in order to protect the video data

283 we employed half-rate, constraint-length nine convolutional coding, using octal generator polynomials
284 of 561 and 753. The useful video bitrate was further reduced due to the 16-bit Cyclic Redundancy
285 Checking (CRC) used for error detection and the nine-bit repetition-coded feedback error flag for the
286 reverse link. This results in video packet sizes of 77, 179 and 383 bits for each of the three modulation
287 modes. The useful video capacity was finally further reduced by the video packet header of between 8
288 and 10 bits, resulting in useful or effective video bitrates ranging from 5 to 26.9 Kbps in the BPSK and
289 16QAM modes, respectively.

290 The proposed multi-mode system can switch amongst the 1, 2 and 4 bit/symbol modulation schemes
291 under network control, based upon the prevailing channel conditions. As seen in Table 3, when the
292 channel is benign, the unprotected video bitrate will be approximately 26.9Kbps the 16QAM mode.
293 However, as the channel quality degrades, the modem will switch to the BPSK mode of operation, where
294 the video bitrate drops to 5Kbps, and for maintaining a reasonable video quality, the video resolution has
295 to be reduced to SQCIF (128x96 pels).

296 Figure 8 portrays the packet loss ratio for the multi-mode system, in each of its modulation modes for a
297 range of channel SNRs. It can be seen in the figure that above a channel SNR of 14dB the 16QAM mode
298 offers an acceptable packet loss ratio of less than 5%, while providing an unprotected video rate of about
299 26.9Kbps. If the channel SNR drops below 14dB, the multi-mode system is switched to 4QAM and
300 eventually to BPSK, when the channel SNR is below 9dB, in order to maintain the required quality of
301 service, which is dictated by the packet loss ratio. The figure also shows the acknowledgement feedback
302 error ratio (FBER) for a range of channel SNRs, which has to be substantially lower, than the video
303 PLR itself. This requirement is satisfied in the figure, since the feedback errors only occur at extremely
304 low channel SNRs, where the packet loss ratio is approximately 50%, and it is therefore assumed that
305 the multi-mode system would have switched to a more robust modulation mode, before the feedback
306 acknowledgement flag can become corrupted.

307 The video quality is commonly measured in terms of the peak-signal-to-noise-ratio (PSNR). Figure 9
308 shows the video quality in terms of the PSNR versus the channel SNRs for each of the modulation
309 modes. As expected, the higher throughput bitrate of the 16QAM mode provides a better video quality.
310 However, as the channel quality degrades, the video quality of the 16QAM mode is reduced and hence
311 it becomes beneficial to switch from the 16QAM mode to 4QAM at an SNR of about 14dB, as it was
312 suggested by the packet loss ratio performance of Figure 8. Although the video quality expressed in
313 terms of PSNR is superior for the 16QAM mode in comparison to the 4QAM mode at channel SNRs
314 in excess of 12dB, however, due to the excessive PLR the perceived video quality appears inferior in
315 comparison to that of the 4QAM mode, even though the 16QAM PSNR is higher for channel SNRs

316 in the range of 12–14dB. More specifically, we found that it was beneficial to switch to a more robust
317 modulation scheme, when the PSNR was reduced by about 1dB with respect to its unimpaired PSNR
318 value. This ensured that the packet losses did not become subjectively apparent, resulting in a higher
319 perceived video quality and smoother degradation, as the channel quality deteriorated.

320 The effect of packet losses on the video quality quantified in terms of PSNR is portrayed in Figure 10.
321 The figure shows, how the video quality degrades, as the PLR increases. It has been found that in order
322 to ensure a seamless degradation of video quality as the channel SNR reduced, it was the best policy
323 to switch to a more robust modulation scheme, when the PLR exceeded 5%. The figure clearly shows
324 that a 5% packet loss ratio results in a loss of PSNR, when switching to a more robust modulation
325 scheme. However, if the system did not switch until the PSNR of the more robust modulation mode
326 was similar, the perceived video quality associated with the originally higher rate, but channel-impaired
327 stream became inferior.

328 3.5 Burst-by-Burst adaptive videophone system

329 A burst-by-burst adaptive modem, maximizes the system's throughput by using the most appropriate
330 modulation mode for the current instantaneous channel conditions. Figure 11 exemplifies, how a burst-
331 by-burst adaptive modem changes its modulation modes based on the fluctuating channel conditions. The
332 adaptive modem uses the SINR estimate at the output of the joint-detector to estimate the instantaneous
333 channel quality, and hence to set the modulation mode.

334 The probability of the adaptive modem using each modulation mode for a particular channel SNRs is
335 portrayed in Figure 12. It can be seen at high channel SNRs that the modem mainly uses the 16QAM
336 modulation mode, while at low channel SNRs the BPSK mode is most prevalent.

337 The advantage of dynamically reconfigured burst-by-adaptive modem over the statically switched multi-
338 mode system previously described, is that the video quality is smoothly degraded as the channel condi-
339 tions deteriorate. The switched multi-mode system results in more sudden reductions in video quality,
340 when the modem switches to a more robust modulation mode. Figure 13 shows the throughput bitrate
341 of the dynamically reconfigured burst-by-burst adaptive modem, compared to the three modes of the
342 statically switched multi-mode system. The reduction of the fixed modem modes' effective throughput
343 at low SNRs is due to the fact that under such channel conditions an increased fraction of the transmitted
344 packets have to be dropped, reducing the effective throughput. The figure shows the smooth reduction of
345 the throughput bitrate, as the channel quality deteriorates. The burst-by-burst modem matches the BPSK
346 mode's bitrate at low channel SNRs, and the 16QAM mode's bitrate at high SNRs. The dynamically
347 reconfigured burst-by-burst adaptive modem characterised in the figure perfectly estimates the prevalent

348 channel conditions although in practice the estimate of channel quality is not perfect and it is inherently
349 delayed. However, we have found that non-perfect channel estimates result in only slightly reduced
350 performance, when compared to perfect channel estimation.

351 The smoothly varying throughput bitrate of the burst-by-burst adaptive modem translates into a smoothly
352 varying video quality as the channel conditions change. The video quality measured in terms of the
353 average peak signal to noise ratio (PSNR) is shown versus the channel SNR in Figure 14 in contrast to
354 that of the individual modem modes. The figure demonstrates that the burst-by-burst adaptive modem
355 provides equal or better video quality over a large proportion of the SNR range shown than the individual
356 modes. However, even at channel SNRs, where the adaptive modem has a slightly reduced PSNR, the
357 perceived video quality of the adaptive modem is better since the video packet loss rate is far lower, than
358 that of the fixed modem modes.

359 Figure 15 shows the video packet loss ratio versus channel SNR for the three fixed modulation modes
360 and the burst-by-burst adaptive modem with perfect channel estimation. Again the figure demonstrates
361 that the video packet loss ratio of the adaptive modem is similar to that of the fixed BPSK modem mode,
362 however the adaptive modem has a far higher bitrate throughput, as the channel SNR increases. The
363 burst-by-burst adaptive modem gives an error performance similar to that of the BPSK mode, but with
364 the flexibility to increase the bitrate throughput of the modem, when the channel conditions improve. If
365 imperfect channel estimation is used, the throughput bitrate of the adaptive modem is reduced slightly.
366 Furthermore, the video packet loss ratio seen in Figure 15 is slightly higher for the AQAM scheme due
367 to invoking higher-order modem modes, as the channel quality increases. However we have found that
368 is possible to maintain the video packet loss ratio within tolerable limits for the range of channel SNRs
369 considered.

370 The interaction between the video quality measured in terms of PSNR and the video packet loss ratio
371 can be more clearly seen in Figure 16. The figure shows that the adaptive modem slowly degrades
372 the decoded video quality from that of the error free 16QAM fixed modulation mode, as the channel
373 conditions deteriorate. The video quality degrades from the error-free 41dB PSNR, while maintaining a
374 near-zero video packet loss ratio, until the PSNR drops below about 36dB PSNR. At this point the further
375 reduced channel quality inflicts an increased video packet loss rate and the video quality degrades more
376 slowly. The PSNR versus packet loss ratio performance then tends toward that achieved by the fixed
377 BPSK modulation mode. However the adaptive modem achieved better video quality than the fixed
378 BPSK modem even at high packet loss rates.

370 3.6 Summary

380 A joint-detection assisted multimode CDMA-based video transceiver was proposed, which substantially
381 outperformed the conventional matched-filtering based transceiver, which was characterised by adap-
382 tively reconfiguring the transceiver's mode of operation based on the instantaneous channel quality. In
383 our transceiver a higher number of bits per modulation symbol was invoked by the transmitter, when
384 the channel quality was sufficiently high for supporting this more bitrate efficient, but less error resilient
385 transmission mode. By contrast, a more error resilient but less bitrate efficient mode was invoked for
386 supporting error-free CDMA transmission over wireless multi-user channels.

387 In this embodiment the above property was exploited in a practical adaptive video transceiver, which
388 instructed the video codec to generate the required number of bits that the CDMA transceiver was capable
389 of delivering in its current channel-condition dependent configuration mode.

390 In other embodiments the proposed burst-by-burst adaptive transceiver can be invoked in the context
391 of arbitrary multimedia signals, irrespective of their resolution or source representation quality. Spe-
392 cific further embodiments of such codecs are constituted by programmable-rate speech, audio, video,
393 handwriting codecs, which can be configured by the transceiver to generate a channel-quality dependent
394 number of source-coded bits.

395 The proposed burst-by-burst adaptive video transceiver guaranteed a near-unimpaired video quality for
396 channel SNRs in excess of about 5 dB over the COST207 dispersive Rayleigh-faded channel. The ben-
397 efits of the multimode video transceiver clearly manifest themselves in terms of supporting un-impaired
398 video quality under time-variant channel conditions, where a single-mode transceiver's quality would
399 become severely degraded by channel effects. The dynamically reconfigured burst-by-burst adaptive
400 modem gave better perceived video quality due to its more graceful reduction in video quality, as the
401 channel conditions degraded, than a statically switched multi-mode system.

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CLAIMS

1. A method for CDMA transmission of a multimedia signal over a transmission medium, the method comprising:

providing a transmitter operable to transmit in a plurality of modulation modes

5 varying in bit rate and error resilience between a highest bit rate, lowest error resilience mode and a lowest bit rate, highest error resilience mode;

obtaining a channel quality measure for current transmission; and

switching to a more or less error resilient modulation mode each time the channel quality measure respectively degrades or improves by a defined amount,

10 whereby multimedia signal quality varies smoothly with varying channel quality of the transmission medium.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the channel quality measure is a multimedia signal quality dependent signal-to-noise value.

15

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the defined amount is set with reference to an unimpaired signal-to-noise value.

4. A method according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the signal-to-noise value is a peak

20 signal-to-noise ratio for a multimedia video signal.

5. A method according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the signal-to-noise value is a segmental signal-to-noise ratio for a multimedia speech signal.

25 6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the channel quality measure is a packet loss value.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the packet loss value is varied dependent upon desired multimedia signal quality.

30

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the channel quality measure is a bit error rate.

9. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the channel quality
5 measure is based on monitoring signal integrity at a remote receiver.

10. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the channel quality measure is based on monitoring signal integrity at a receiver local to the transmitter.

10 11. A transmitter for transmission of a multimedia source signal over a transmission medium to a remote receiver, the transmitter comprising a CDMA modem having an output for transmitting a multimedia source signal and an input for receiving a channel quality measure for current transmission, wherein the CDMA modem is switchable between a plurality of modulation modes varying in bit rate and
15 error resilience between a highest bit rate, lowest error resilience mode and a lowest bit rate, highest error resilience mode, such that the CDMA modem is switched to a more or less error resilient modulation mode each time the channel quality measure respectively degrades or improves by a defined amount, whereby multimedia signal quality is smoothly variable with varying channel quality of the transmission medium.

20

12. A transmitter according to claim 11, wherein the channel quality measure is a multimedia signal quality dependent signal-to-noise value.

13. A transmitter according to claim 12, wherein the defined amount is set with
25 reference to an unimpaired signal-to-noise value.

14. A transmitter according to claim 12 or 13, wherein the signal-to-noise value is a peak signal-to-noise ratio for a multimedia video signal.

30 15. A transmitter according to claim 12 or 13, wherein the signal-to-noise value is a segmental signal-to-noise ratio for a multimedia speech signal.

16. A transmitter according to claim 11, wherein the channel quality measure is a packet loss value.
17. A transmitter according to claim 11, wherein the packet loss value is variable dependent upon desired multimedia signal quality.
5
18. A transmitter according to claim 11, wherein the channel quality measure is a bit error rate.
- 10 19. A transmitter according to any one of claims 11 to 18, wherein the channel quality measure is based on monitoring signal integrity at a remote receiver.
- 15 20. A transmitter according to any one of claims 11 to 18, wherein the channel quality measure is based on monitoring signal integrity at a receiver local to the transmitter.
21. A transmission system for transmission of multimedia source signals over a transmission medium, the system comprising:
 - a first transceiver including a local receiver and a local transmitter according to any one of claims 11 to 20; and
 - 20 a second transceiver including a remote receiver and a remote transmitter according to any one of claims 11 to 20.

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Fig. 1(a)

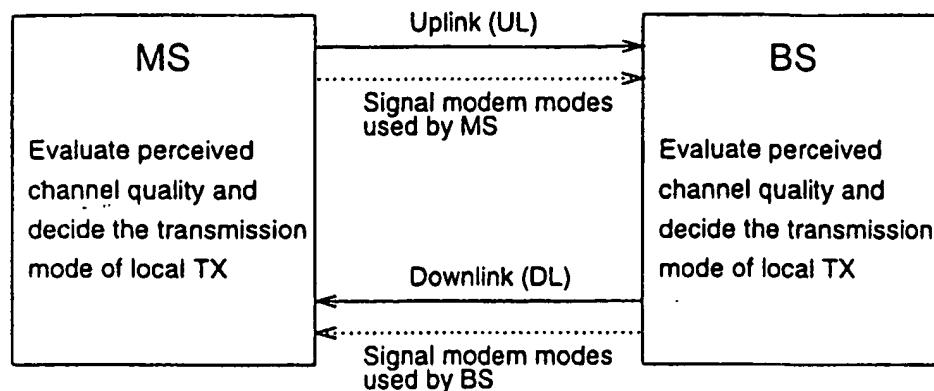


Fig. 1(b)

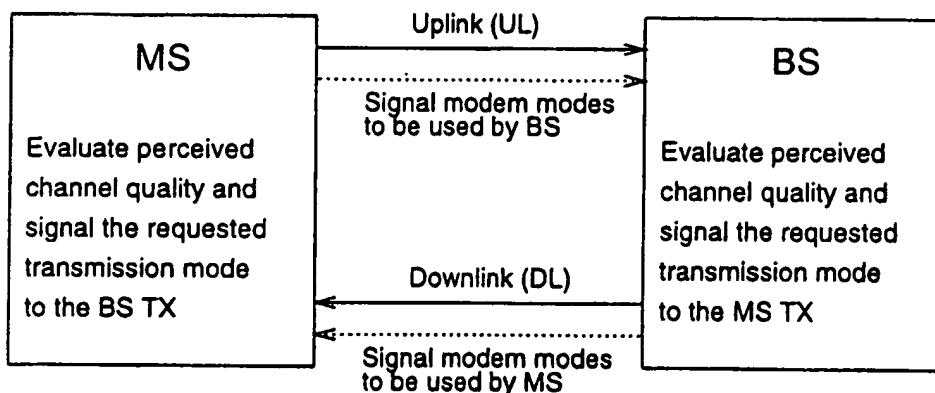


Fig. 1(c)

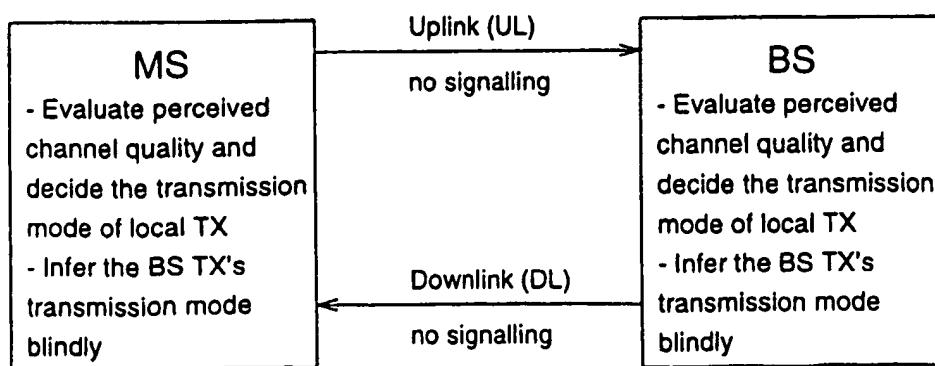


Fig. 2

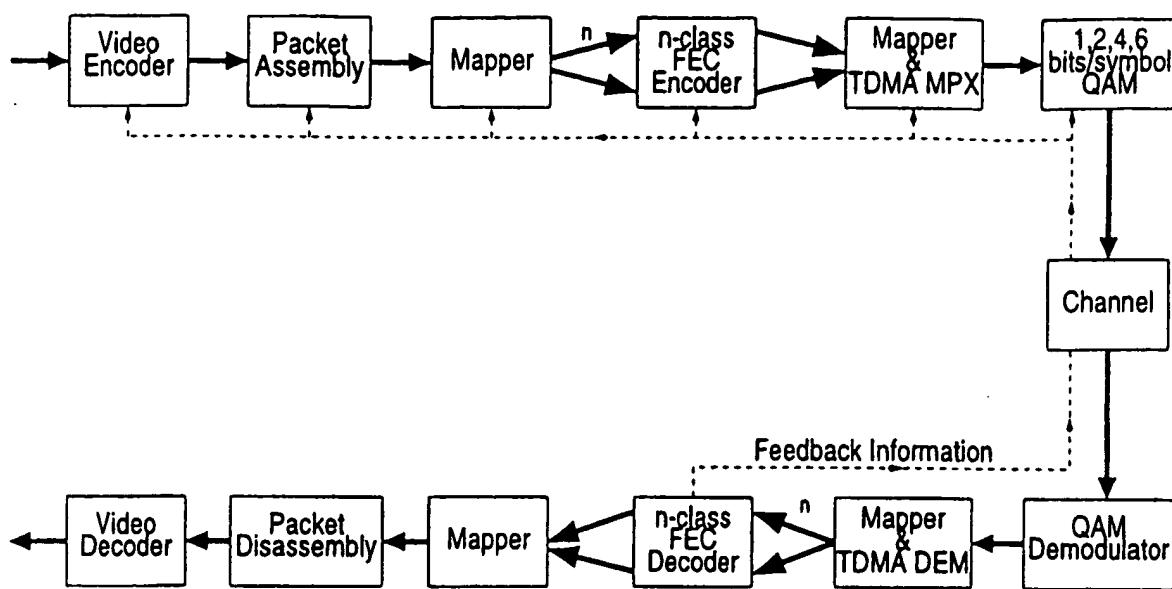


Fig. 3

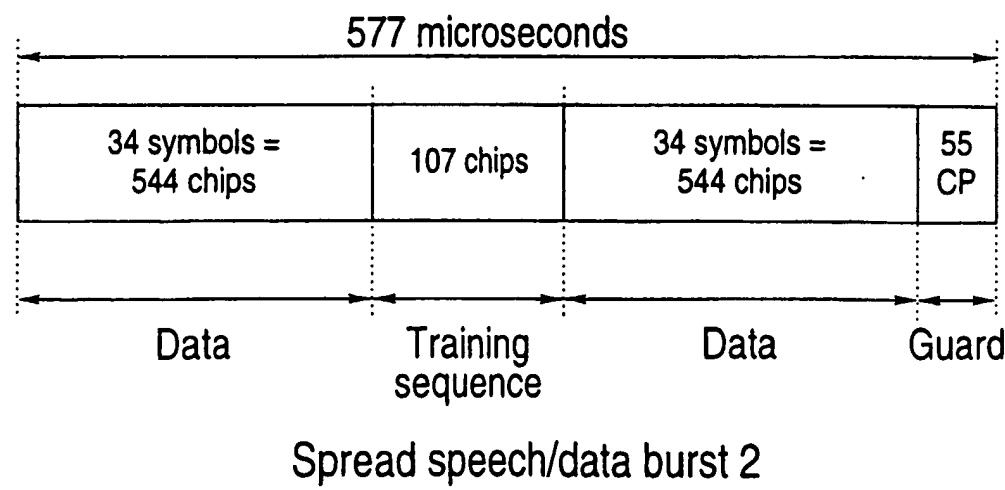


Fig. 4

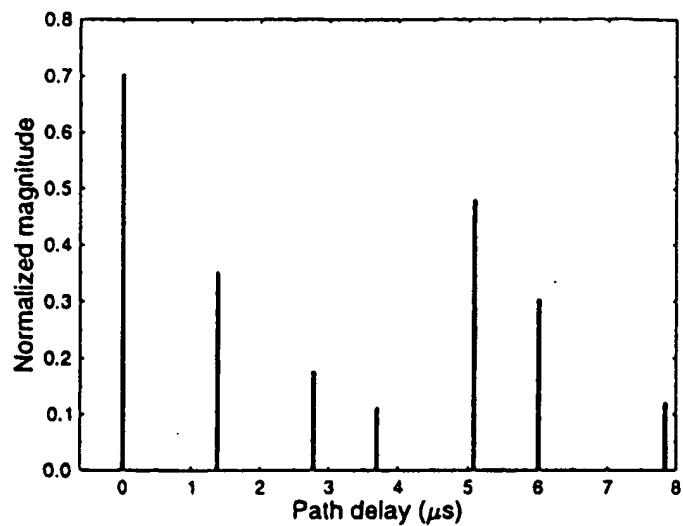


Fig. 5

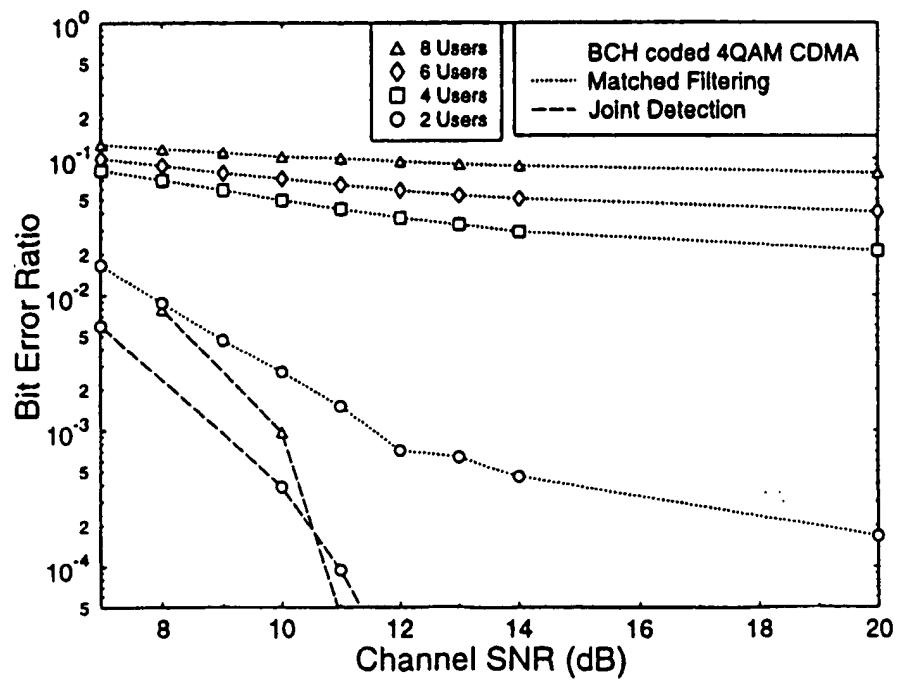


Fig. 6

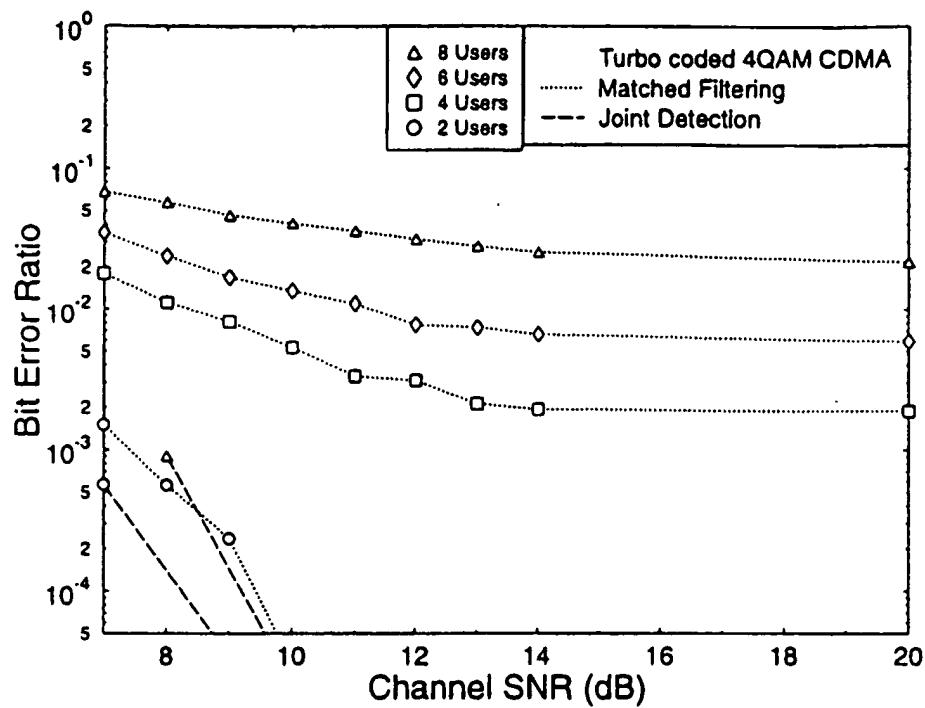
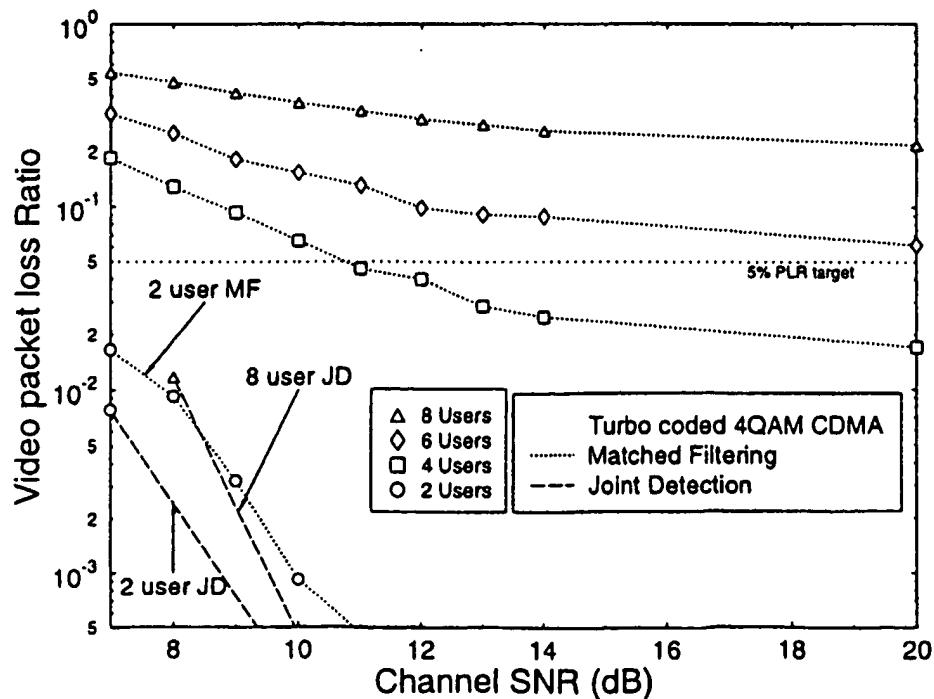


Fig. 7



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Fig. 8

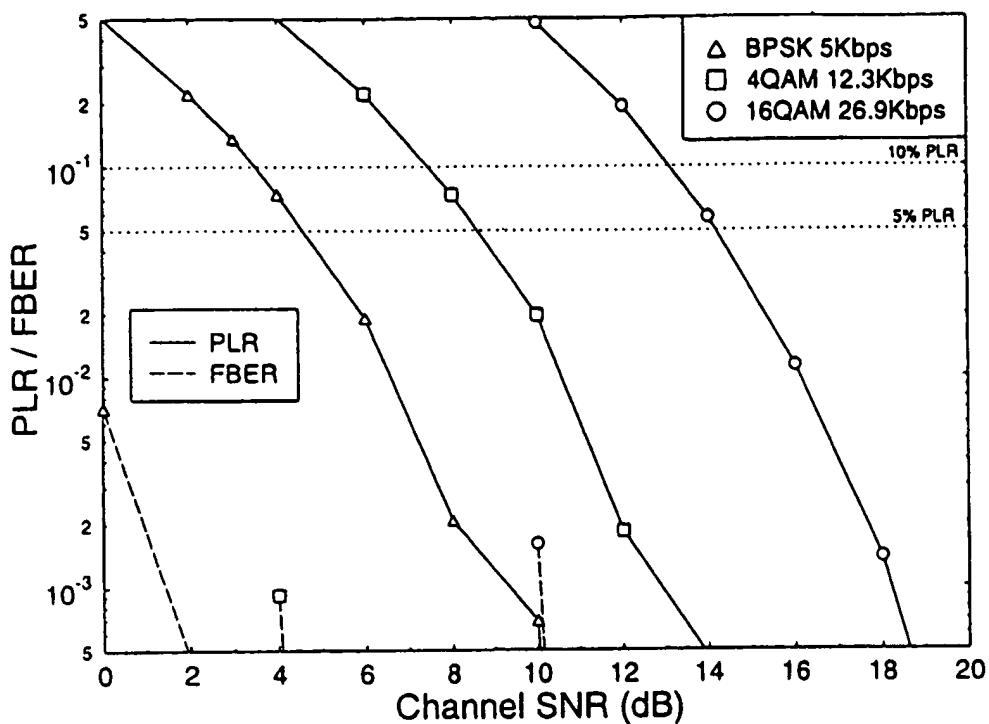
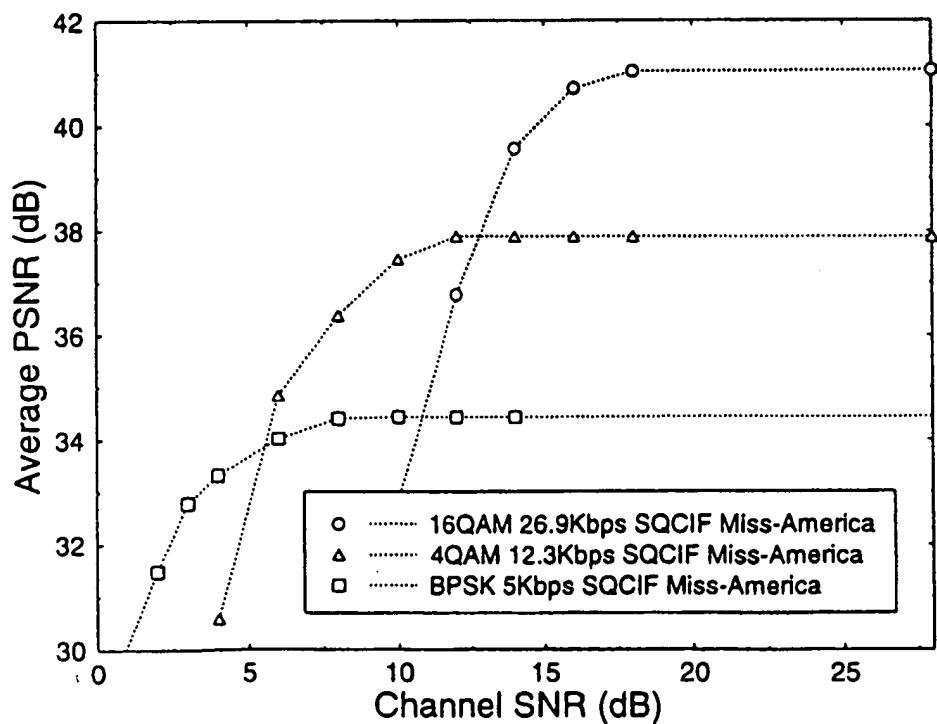


Fig. 9



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Fig. 10

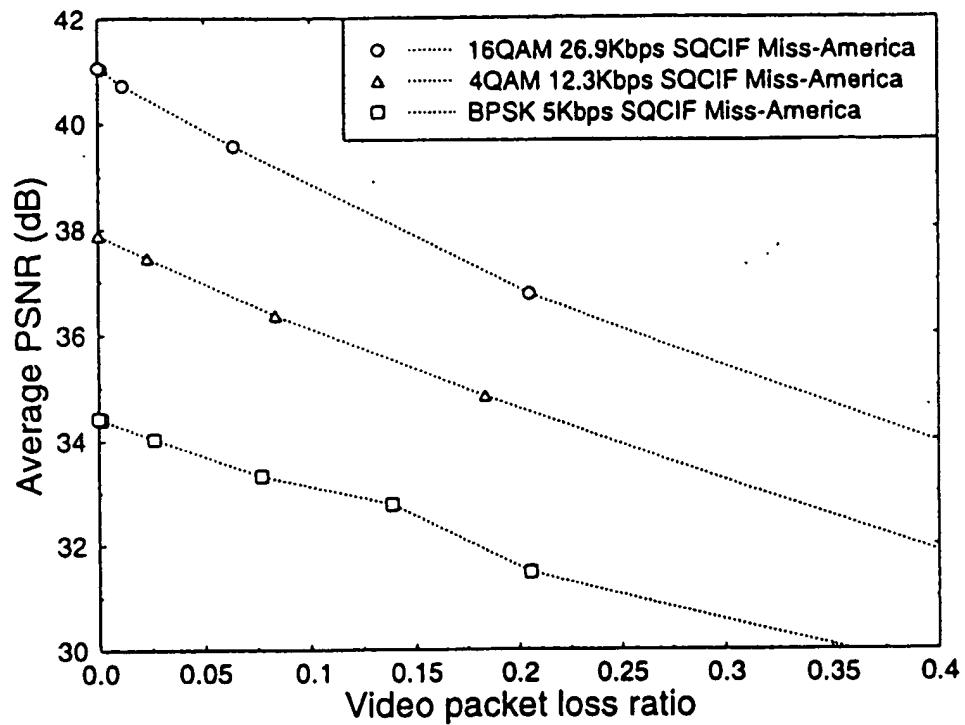
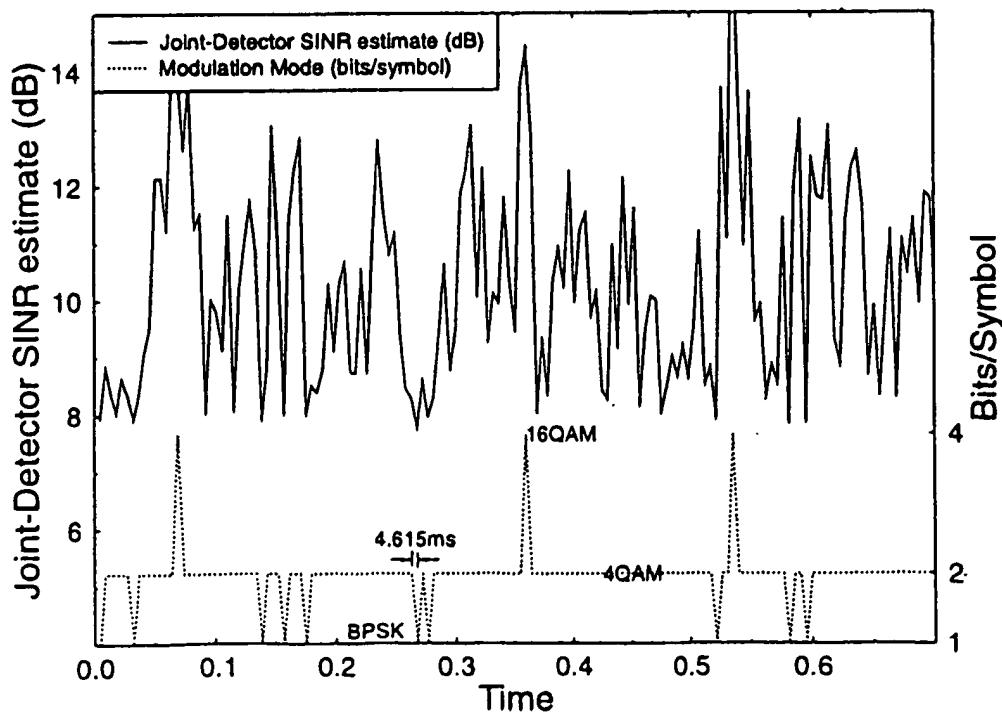


Fig. 11



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Fig. 12

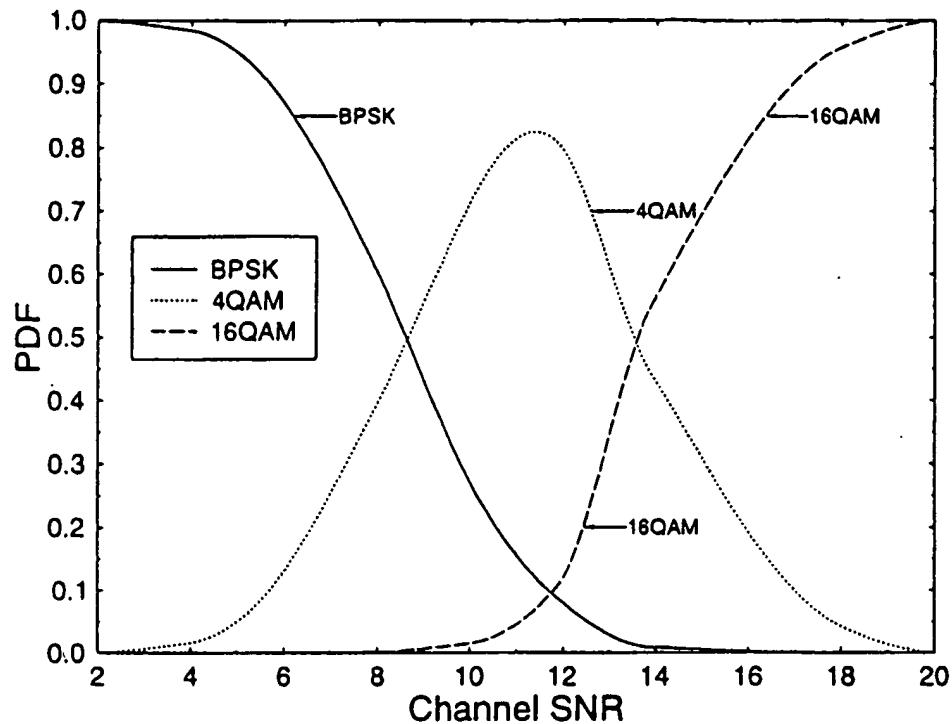
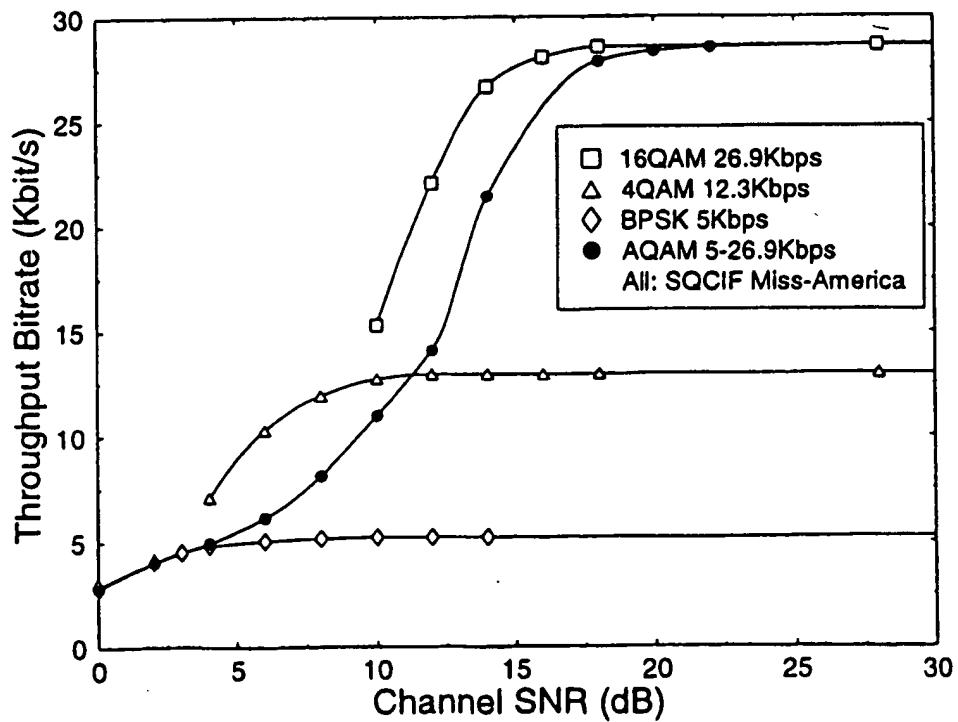


Fig. 13



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Fig. 14

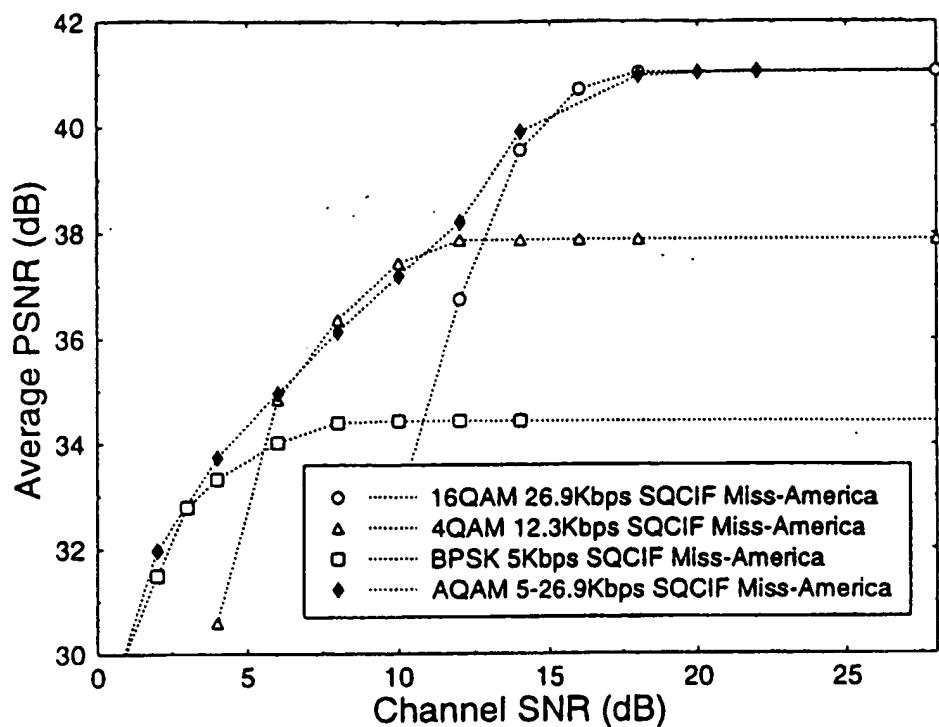


Fig. 15

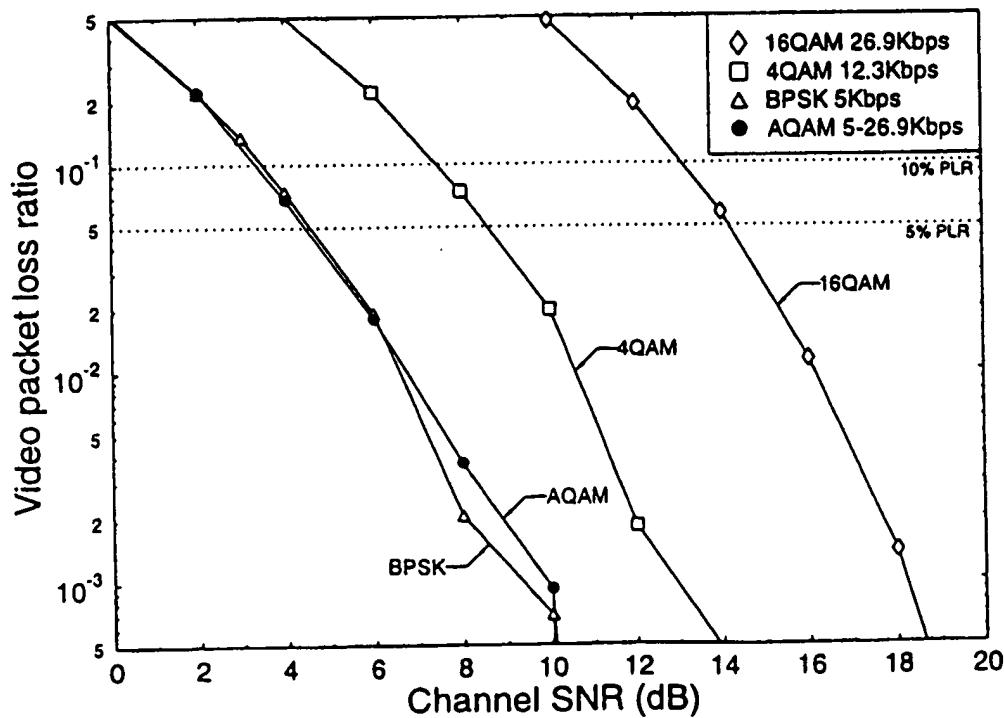
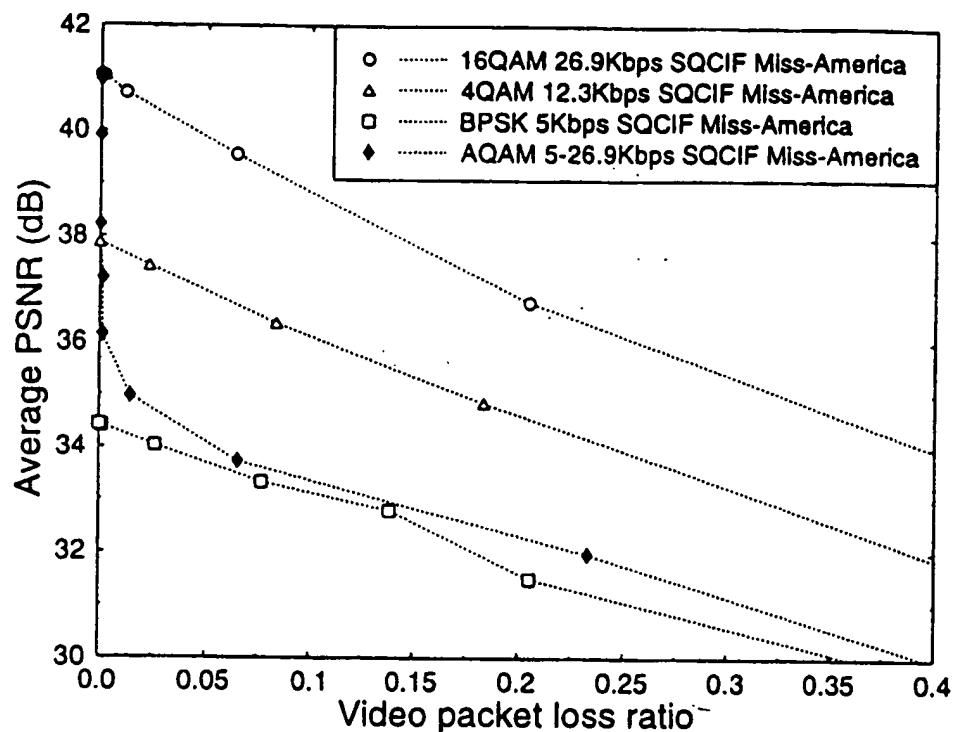


Fig. 16



A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H04L1/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H04L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	KUAN E L ET AL: "Burst-by-burst adaptive joint detection CDMA" IEEE 49TH VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, 16 - 20 May 1999, pages 1628-1632 vol.2, XP002145024 1999, Piscataway, NJ, USA, IEEE, USA ISBN: 0-7803-5565-2 the whole document ----	1-21
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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 August 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

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Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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